

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 573

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 7598

PASS STR, AGRICULTURE, H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT

SUBJECT: MTN: US-EC IMPASSE ON AGRICULTURE

REF: MTN 7550

1. SUMMARY. THIS TELEGRAM SUPPLEMENTS REFTEL WITH FURTHER DETAILS ON US-EC BILATERAL MEETING OCT 2. END SUMMARY.

2. US REP (CULBERT) OPENED EC-US BILATERAL MEETING OCTOBER 2 BY STATING THAT REVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION HAD BEEN MADE AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN WASHINGTON DURING PAST WEEK, AND THAT US ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO WORK PROCEEDING IN AGRICULTURE GROUP. HE ASKED IF EC COULD TELL US WHERE EC STANDS ON KEY ISSUES WHERE US-EC POSITION DIVERGE.

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3. EC (PIZZUTI) SAID THAT WORK IN BRUSSELS DURING

PAST WEEK HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT IN TWO STAGES: (A) CONSULTATION WITH HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS (LARDINOIS, RABOT AND HIJZEN) CONCERNING THE REASONS FOR IMPASSE; AND (B) REFLECTION ON WHAT COULD BE DONE TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS. IN FIRST STAGE, HE SAID THAT HE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM RABOT THAT WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS OF WORK PROGRAM BETWEEN RABOT AND US OFFICIALS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED PRODUCTS COVERED BY SUBGROUPS MEAT, GRANS AND DAIRY. HE ALSO RECEIVED CONFIRMATION THAT THE EC PRESENTLY COULD NOT ACCEPT LANGUAGE IN WORK PROGRAM ENVISAGING JOINT MEETINGS BETWEEN MTN GROUPS. HE SAID THAT EC, FROM THE BEGINNING, HAS BEEN OPPOSED TO THE CONCEPT OF QUOTE JOINT UNQUOTE PROCEDURES BETWEEN GROUPS AND WAS SURPRISED (SIC) WHEN US RESURRECTED THIS TERM LAST WEEK. IN THE SECOND STAGE, PIZZUTI SAID IT WAS FELT THAT QUOTE CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT OF WASHINGTON UNQUOTE COULD BE CARRIED FORWARD AND PROGRESS MADE IN SEVERAL AREAS OF WORK PROGRAM WHICH QUOTE DOES NOT CHALLENGE OUR POSITION UNQUOTE.

4. WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM FOR QUOTE OTHER PRODUCTS UNQUOTE, PIZZUTI STATED THAT EC WENT AS FAR AS IT COULD WITH INCLUSION OF PARAGRAPHS 2 OF MTN/AG/2 IN CHAPEAU OF SECRETARIAT'S TEXT AND AGREEING TO LET RESULTS BE COMMUNICATED TO THE TNC. HE THOUGHT THE US COULD ACCEPT THIS AS A MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING QUOTE IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNQUOTE. THIS SOLUTION WOULD PUT OFF SUBSTANTIVE DISPUTES FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS AS THE WORK DURING THIS PERIOD WAS NOT LIKELY TO REACH A STAGE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE JOINT MEETING WITH THE OTHER GROUPS.

5. US RECOGNIZED EC CONCERN OVER SUBORDINATION OF GROUP AGRICULTURE TO OTHER GROUPS AND HAD MADE IT EQUALLY CLEAR THAT US COULD NOT ACCEPT AUTONOMY FOR GROUP AGRICULTURE. US BELIEVED A SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE HAD BEEN WORKED OUT IN WASHINGTON WHICH TOOK ACCOUNT OF BOTH PROBLEMS BY PROVIDING FOR JOINT MEETINGS. US REGRETTED EC UNWILLING TO PROCEED IN ACCORDANCE UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN WASHINGTON. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS. PIZZUTI INDICATED PROPOSED EC WORK PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURE GROUP WOULD ALSO INCLUDE TREATMENT OF QR'S IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WORK PROGRAM ON QUOTE OTHER PRODUCTS UNQUOTE. HOWEVER, IN THE EC'S VIEW, THE PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE QR SUBGROUP WOULD NOT APPLY TO PRODUCTS IN THE GRAIN, MEAT AND DAIRY SUBGROUPS. HE SAID THE SUB-

GROUPS ARE TO DEAL WITH ALL ELEMENTS AFFECTING TRADE IN GRAINS, MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS, INCLUDING QR'S, AND REPEATED EC COULD NOT AGREE TO CONSULTATION ON THESE PRODUCTS OUTSIDE OF A MULTILATERAL CONTEXT. THE US REMINDED EC OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY IN QR SUBGROUP AND STATED US COULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING ON QR'S. IN US VIEW THE REPORTING OF THE WORK WOULD BE FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE WORK OF OTHER GROUPS AND WILL APPLY TO SUBGROUPS ON MEAT, GRAIN AND DAIRY PRODUCTS. US STATED VIEW THAT EC CLAIMING PARAGRAPH 5 OF MTN/AG/1 GIVES AUTONOMY TO PRODUCTS SUBGROUPS; BUT PARA 2 CONDITIONS PARA 5 WHEREBY WORK OF SUBGROUPS IS ALSO SUBJECT OF QUOTE IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNQUOTE.

7. US SAID THAT OUR POSITION IS FIRM AND WONDERED IF EC POSITION IS ALSO FIRM ON THESE ISSUES AND QUESTIONED WHETHER PLENARY SESSION ON FRIDAY WOULD BE USEFUL. HE SAID THAT THIS MEETING HAD GIVEN US A CLEARER INDICATION OF THE EC'S PROPOSITIONS BUT EXPRESSED DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE EC WAS UNABLE TO COME FORWARD WITH SOME MORE ACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS. PIZZUTI REPLIED IT ALSO SEEMED TO HIM THAT THE US HAD TOUGHENED ITS POSITION SINCE LAST WEEK PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE QUESTION OF QUOTE FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE WORK OF THE OTHER GROUPS UNQUOTE. LAST WEEK THE US HAD INDICATED POSSIBLE FLEXIBILITY ON THAT POINT IN EXCHANGE FOR LANGUAGE ON JOINT MEETINGS. THE US SAID THAT, TO MAKE MATTERS CLEAR, THE EC SHOULD RECALL (A) THAT IT WAS THE EC WHICH HAD CHANGED ITS POSITION BETWEEN THE WASHINGTON TALKS AND THE SEPTEMBER 22 AGRICULTURE GROUP MEETING, AND (B) THAT THE US HAD RESERVED THE RIGHT TO REVIEW THE ENTIRE TEXT OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORK PROGRAM BASED ON THE FACT THAT SO MANY POINTS WERE UNRESOLVED AND COVERED BY BRACKETED LANGUAGE. IN THAT CONTEXT THE US ASKED WHETHER THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE TEXT CONCERNING SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY REGULATIONS HAD BEEN REGISTERED BECAUSE THE EC HAD CHANGED ITS POSITION ON THIS QUESTION. THE EC WAS REMINDED THAT THIS SENTENCE HAD BEEN DROPPED FROM THE TEXT LAST WEEK. PIZZUTI REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT ANSWER AT THIS TIME; THAT IT WOULD DEPEND ON EC'S OVERALL POSITION.

8. THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH AGREEMENT THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD TELL PATTERSON THAT THE US-EC DISCUSSION HAD REACHED AN IMPASSE AND LEAVE TO HIM TO DECIDE IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER DELS IF THE PLENARY SHOULD BE

HELD FRIDAY, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO TELL PATTERSON
THAT IN THEIR VIEW NOTHING WOULD BE GAINED BY HOLDING
THE MEETING. WALKER

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